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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

DATE DISTR.

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY USSR (Latvia)

CAPA YACAS

8 May 1951

SUBJECT

Military Notes on Riga

NO. OF PAGES

3

PLACE ACQUIRED

DATE OF

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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## Military Training

- 1. High ranking Soviet officers, from the rank of major upward, with notebooks in hand, waiting as if for instructions or classes to begin, have been observed outside the following buildings in Riga where it is presumed that courses are held:
  - a. Corner of Gertrudes and Skolas Streets.
  - b. Corner of Baznicas and Brivibas Streets.
- 2. Young officers with "cadet flashes" can often be seen in Riga, but the location of their training school(if any) is not known.
- 3. At the University, the Academy of art, and the Agricultural Academy there are special military sections (kara katedris) preparing students for military service. After finishing the University, the students are drafted straight into the Army as junior officers, not into the ranks. Military training, together with political training, is very strict and includes not only theoretical but also practical training.
- 4. In Riga, early in the morning, senior students from the secondary schools can be seen on their way to military training. They carry rifles.
- 5. In Riga, there are also a Nakhimov school and a Suvorov school for boys.

  It is believed that the discipline in these schools is very strict and that only the sons of Communist Party members are accepted.

## Mobilization

- 6. No posters announcing a call-up, as in previous times, are publicly displayed. Instead, each man receives a call-up letter individually, stating when and where he must report for further instructions. The recruit is then told where, when, and with what effects he must join his future unit.
- 7. Men called up in Riga are sent to places in the interior of the Soviet Union. There definitely are no special Latvian units. In the spring, recruits from

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the interior of the Soviet Union arrive in Riga and they are often to be seen drilling opposite the Castle in Riga. It is believed that most of these recruits live in the barracks in Citadeles Street. There are never any harvians among them.

#### Military Establishments

- E. There is a military enclosure on the corner of Kisezera Street and Koknesos Prospekts (formerly the Arsenal of the Latvian Army). (See Attachments Nos. 1 and 2.)
- 9. A military unit or store is located approximately 400 500 meters northeast of Brasa railway station in Riga.
- 10. At the corner of Baznicas and Gertrudes Streets, there is believed to be a staff headquarters, as military cars and sentries are always to be seen there.
- The Latvian Division, which during World War II received the title of "Guards", was stationed in 1947 in the barracks approximately 400 meters cast of Ciekurkalns. These barracks are now occupied by other units (identification not known).
- 12. The military hospital is still located in an old building at the end of the pitalu Street.

#### Military Police

13. Soldiers' documents are checked by military police (kommandatura patrols).
The patrols usually consist of three men.

#### Uniforms

Uniforms to be seen in Riga are mostly those of the infantry and the Soviet Air Force. Many airmen can be seen early in the morning going by tram (No. 9) to Spilve Airfield.

#### Military Personnel

- The chief of the Baltic Military District is Gen. Bagramyan. He takes the salute at all important parades and appears to be a football fan, since is frequently to be seen at football matches. He also is usually present at military motorcycle races in Riga at Meza Parks.
- 16. In Riga there is also a Soviet general who resembles Stalin in appearance.
  He has a slight limp, in spite of which he is often to be seen walking about in the streets of Riga.
- 17. Soviet Army officers and enlisted men in Riga rarely speak Latvian. The following Soviet Army officers in Riga are known to be Latvians:

Capt. (or Maj.) Krumins (Infantry) who was made a Hero of the Soviet Union for crossing the Dnepr with his unit during World War II.

Capt. Anatolis Makarovs, from a tank unit. He was arrested in autumn 1949 for an unknown reason.

An infantry major or lieutenant colonel (name unknown), also Hero of the Soviet Union.

A colonel in the Medical Corps, name unknown.

Junior officers in Riga are usually Russians or Mongols. Estonian officers have sometimes been seen in Riga, but only very occasionally.

#### Soviet Troops in Latvia

- 18. There are MVD units in every town, even the smallest.
- 19. The following Soviet troops have been observed in Latvia:

Jelgava (Yelgava) - motorized infantry
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# CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Tukums

- infantry and motorized units

Ventspils

- naval

Liepaja (Lepaya)

- naval, Air Force, and infantry

Daugavpils

- infantry and Air Force

Rezekne

- infantry and a few Air Force

Abrene

- MVD and a few infantry

Kegums

- MVD (mostly Mongols)

Krustpils

- infantry

Sigulda

- infantry

Ligatne

- motorized units

# Attachments:

1. Location of Military Anclosure in Riga

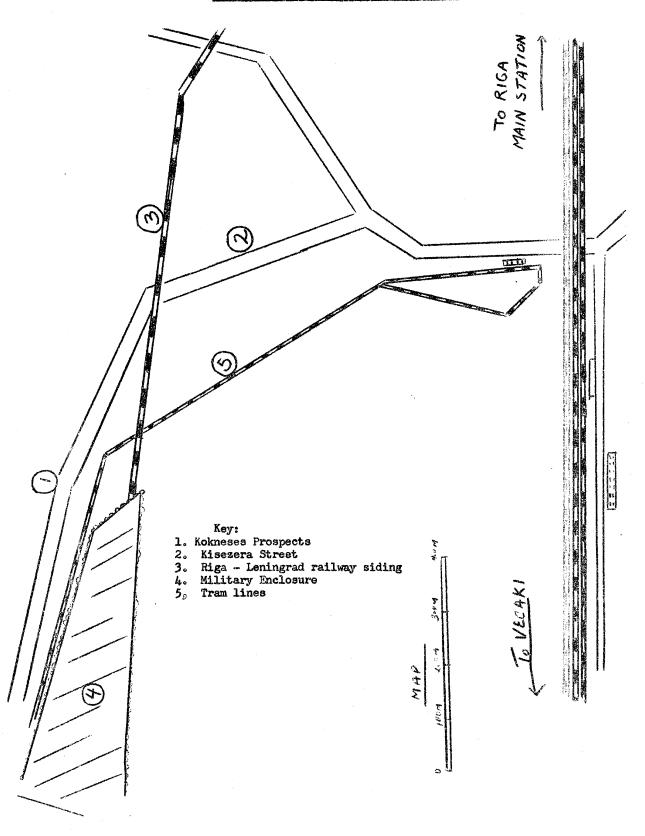
2. View of Military Enclosure, Showing Entrance of Railway Siding from Riga - Leningrad Main Line

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Attachment 1

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## LOCATION OF MILITARY ENCLOSURE IN RIGA

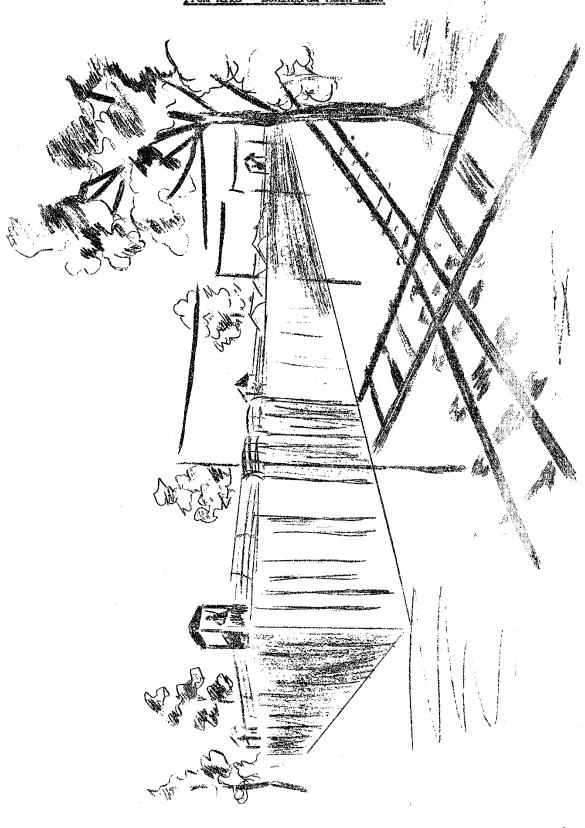


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Attachment 3

View of Military Enclosure, Showing Entrance of Railway Siding from Riga - Leningrad Main Line



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